

Tx Groundwater Protection Committee – Legislative Report Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
6/28/6

1. Introductions of Committee Members:

Attendees: Steve Musick (proxy for Mary Ambrose – part of the meeting/TCEQ), Mary Ambrose (TCEQ), Barry Miller (TAGD), Richard Egg (TSSWCB), David Gunn (TDLR), Robert Mace (TWDB)

Staff: Frank Fuller, Leon Byrd, Joe Peters – TCEQ

The attendees introduced themselves.

2. Review process and timeline for completion of draft recommendations and other sections of the document Action of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee: Report to the 80th Legislature (legislative report)

Frank Fuller reviewed the schedule for completion. He indicated that subcommittee members and others need to get recommendations to him in the TGPC Legislative Report format by Friday, July 21. The recommendations would be discussed at the TGPC July 26 meeting and then committee members would brief their management. Formal action (voting) on individual recommendations would take place at the 1st quarter TGPC meeting in late September/early October. After that meeting, the recommendations along with the rest of the report would enter into the TCEQ publication process.

3. Update on the development of the description of the Committee’s activities portion for inclusion in the draft legislative report.

Steve Musick stated that his team is working on the “background portion of the report” but no draft had yet been produced.

4. Discussion of draft legislative recommendations.

The following recommendations were discussed based on draft proposals, email communications distributed at the meeting and general comments:

- Disposal/Use of Desalination Concentrate and Drinking Water Treat Residuals (Leslie Savage provided a redline/strikeout edits to the draft prepared by Mary Ambrose)
- Evaluating the Characteristics of Concentrate Resulting from Desalination and Drinking Water Treatment – still need cost estimate.
- Support for Oil and Gas Well Plugging Fund. L. Savage provided an email that indicated that there may be no need for the recommendation. Barry Miller was going to contact her for more information.

- Conversion of State Water Well Reports to Electronic Format/Database. Steve Musick indicated that determining the overall cost of such a system was difficult and he was trying to determine if the effort had support from TCEQ management.
- On- Farm Agricultural BMP Incentives through Creation of a Water Conservation Plan Program.
- Brush Control Funding to Increase Groundwater Yield
- High Quality Groundwater Data. Robert Mace indicated that this is a TWDB exceptional item request. Robert indicated that there is quality assurance problems with some of the incoming data and with some of the existing data. TWDB is requesting two FTEs to address the issue.
- Groundwater Availability Modeling. Robert Mace indicated that this a TWDB exceptional item request with a goal of keeping all models up-to-date every 5 years.
- Groundwater Management Areas. Robert Mace indicated that this a TWDB exceptional item request to provide additional staff support to groundwater conservation districts.
- Real-time Water Levels. Robert Mace indicated that this a TWDB exceptional item request to provide a “real time” recorder in every county.
- Groundwater Quality Education Programs.
- Abandoned Water Well Plugging Fund.
- Funding for the Municipal Water Conservation Education Section at the TWDB. This is a TWDB exceptional item request. No handout was provided at the meeting.

The following items were provided by the Tx Water Resource Institute. The committee requested that the TWRI provide more information on each using “the TGPC recommendation format” as a means of doing so.

- Irrigation Training Program
- Scientific Research and Technology Development to Enhance Water Use Efficiency and Promote Sustainability of the Aquifer
- Providing Information to Water User That will Result in Balancing Economic, Environmental, and Social Concerns for the Ogallala and Texas High Plains Aquifer
- Providing Scientifically Sound Data to Planners and Policymakers to Enable Development of Effective Water Management Policies and Balance the Utilization and Protection of the Aquifer While Sustaining Rural Economies.
- Agricultural Water Demonstration Initiatives in the Southern High Plains
- Comprehensive Water Conservation Program and Other Recommendation Made by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force.
- Sustainable Water for Rural Communities.

5. Discussion of the completion of the draft legislative recommendation and the presentation of them to the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee.

See discussion under item #2.

6. Action Item: Set Next Meeting Date.

No further meetings were set. It appears that further action will take place at the full TGPC meetings.

Notes prepared by Frank Fuller. An audio copy of the meeting is maintained in the by TCEQ's Groundwater Section.